

Strathbogie Shire Council

Council Meeting Minutes / Decisions

September 2022

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we strive, the peoples of the rivers and the hills of the Strathbogie Shire region who walked these lands for generations.

We pay our respects to the elders of the past, and the speakers of the first words, who lived in harmony with this country.

We acknowledge the elders of the present, who seek to regain their culture, and to teach the elders of the future their law, their history and their language.

We pay our respects to them and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

We honour their spirit – and the memory, culture, art and science of the world's oldest living culture through 60,000 years.

Minutes/Decisions

Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 6pm

Meeting held at the Euroa Community Conference Centre and livestreamed on Council's website:

<https://www.strathbogje.vic.gov.au/council/our-council/council-meetings-and-minutes/>

Council:

Cr Laura Binks (Mt Wombat Ward) – Mayor
Cr Paul Murray (Hughes Creek Ward) – Deputy Mayor
Cr David Andrews (Lake Nagambie Ward)
Cr Reg Dickinson (Lake Nagambie Ward)
Cr Sally Hayes-Burke (Seven Creeks Ward)
Cr Chris Raeburn (Honeysuckle Creek Ward)

Officers:

Julie Salomon – Chief Executive Officer
Dawn Bray – Director People and Governance
Vlad Adamek – Director Sustainable Infrastructure
Kristin Favaloro – Executive Manager Communications and Engagement
Braydon Aitken – Acting Director, Community and Planning

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1. Welcome
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Apologies / Leave of Absence
 - *Cr Kristy Hourigan (Seven Creeks Ward)*
 - *Amanda Tingay – Director Community and Planning*
4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest
 - *Cr Raeburn declared a material conflict of interest under Clause 128 of the Local Government Act 2020 in Item 9.2.1 (Community Action Group Funding 2022/23) due to being an employee of Violet Town Action Group*
 - *Cr Binks declared a material conflict of interest under Clause 128 of the Local Government Act 2020 in Item 9.6.2 (Councillor Training and Development Expense Request – Councillor Laura Binks) due to it relating to a request for funding for an Australian Institute of Company Directors training course she is currently undertaking*
5. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

MOVED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 16 August, 2022, be confirmed.

171-21/22 **CARRIED**

6. Petitions
Nil
7. Reports of Mayor and Councillors and Delegates
Mayor
 - *On behalf of Strathbogie Shire Council, I offer condolences to the Royal Family and to King Charles on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.*
 - *Members of our community can leave messages of condolence for Her Majesty The Queen at Council offices in Euroa and Nagambie, and those condolences will then be sent to Buckingham Palace and archived.*
 - *Screening of 'The Princess' at the Euroa Community Cinema and morning for this year's Victorian Seniors Festival, to be held on Wednesday 5 October 2022 from 10.00 am.*
 - *'Here and Now' school holidays program – films, cooking and skateboarding workshops, music and arts festival. More information is on our website.*
 - *Projects on our ShareStrathbogie engagement platform for feedback / advice – Draft Tree Management Plan, EV Charging Station options in Nagambie, second draft of Nagambie Streetscape Plans, voting for movies for screening at Euroa Community Cinema*

7. Reports of Mayor and Councillors and Delegates (cont.)

Cr Raeburn

Attended the following -

- *Rural Councils Victoria forum in Daylesford on 2 September 2022 – also attended by Mayor and Cr Murray.*
- *Violet Town Action Group meeting 14 September 2022.*
- *Violet Town Primary School concert – first one in four years.*
- *Municipal Association of Victoria Special State Council Meeting on 16 September, as substitute representative for the Mayor*

Cr Dickinson

- *Congratulations to Nagambie Football Netball Club U18's on grand final win.*
- *Reminder to residents that officers are now in attendance at the Regatta Centre for a trial period of six months.*
- *Met with GoNagambie, with Cr Andrews.*
- *Called in to view Streetscape Plans with planning officers in attendance.*
- *Little Athletics starting soon in Nagambie. Successful in Council's Community Grants funding for \$5,000.*
- *Attended AGM of Nagambie Recreation Reserve. Encouraging community members and sporting clubs who use the facility to get involved.*
- *Councillors in Nagambie next Tuesday to familiarise themselves with what's happening in Nagambie.*

Cr Hayes-Burke

- *Event at Euroa Arboretum on 29 September 2022 for young children – bush nature walk and craft making.*
- *Show and Shine event being held 2 October 2022 in Euroa.*
- *Attended Greening Euroa meeting. Goulburn Valley Water looking at staging project, putting together timelines, etc.*
- *Attended community planting at Rockies.*
- *Attended Tahbilk community festival.*
- *Community radio session last month. Will be sharing podcasts when available.*

Cr Murray

- *Some Councillors spent day at Avenel on 23 August 2022.*

Attended the following -

- *Community planting at Rockies with Euroa Secondary College VCAL students.*
- *Rural Councils Victoria forum in Daylesford on 2 September 2022 – also attended by Mayor and Cr Raeburn.*
- *Chaired Euroa Historical Society AGM on 5 September 2022.*
- *Avenel Primary School Arts Exhibition on 9 September 2022.*
- *Tourism, Arts and Culture meeting on 14 September 2022.*
- *Euroa Health meeting on 12 September 2022.*
- *Launch of x-ray machine at Euroa Health also on 12 September 2022, with Council's CEO.*

Cr Andrews

- *Splash Park coming along well at Nagambie.*
- *Foreshore Walk project also progressing.*
- *Attended Cranksters event at Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre at weekend.*

8. Public Question Time

Council Ref: TM: 09/2022

1. ARTC - what's the position for the Anderson Street works up to date?
Should the council consider Option 3?

Responses provided by CEO

We know the future design of the Anderson St Bridge; the Euroa Railway Precinct and the movement of vehicles (rail and road) has a significant impact on the Euroa township's future. We have continued to advocate to the decision makers, that's the ARTC and the Department of Transport for them to implement the communities preferred design solution.

Following the ARTC community survey seeking the Euroa community's views on an overpass or underpass option, there was clear sentiment from the community for Euroa to be a united community (visually) and the clear preference for an underpass solution.

We believe very strongly the community's preference should be the solution implemented by the ARTC.

We know that good design creates inspired and connected communities and, as such, we will continue to advocate for the best solution for our community.

2. Roads - why does this council restrict the ratepayers' usage of roads in this Shire and who pays for it?

Responses provided by CEO

We have asked the submitter of the question for clarification on his question and we understand the question relates to the use of square culverts versus round culverts.

In response, Council does not restrict rate payers in the use of our roads unless they are a designated dry road where the road may be closed through winter or during inclement weather.

In relation to the use of square culverts versus round culverts, both are interchangeable and depend on the terrain and type of works required. Usually box culverts are used where a larger volume of water needs to pass under the road.

Council Ref: MM: 10/2022

1. Assets of this shire - Why is there not a complete asset register for the ratepayers to see?

Responses provided by CEO

A road register is available on the Shire's website and is in the process of being updated. We also have data on a mapping system that identifies Council owned and managed assets. There is currently an audit and review of Council owned and managed buildings being undertaken that will update this information.

Given the breadth and number of assets the Council holds, a single register would be unwieldy and so we manage our assets and asset management in a more effective way. This is similar to practices adopted by other Councils.

2. Roads - Since the amalgamation of this Shire 27 years ago, why is this Shire NOT assessing all roads, bridges and assets and keeping them maintained? As damages to vehicles and property the Shire is liable for.

Responses provided by CEO

We do have a maintenance inspection schedule for roads and bridges in accordance with the Road Management Act 2004 and outlined in Council's Road Management Plan. Our Asset Plan recently adopted by Council also outlines our approach to asset maintenance. The Road Management Plan and Asset Plan are both available on our website.

9. Officer Reports
 - 9.1 Strategic and Statutory
 - 9.2 Community
 - 9.3 Infrastructure
 - 9.4 Corporate
 - 9.5 Governance and Customer Service
 - 9.6 Executive
10. Notices of Motion
11. Notices of Rescission
12. Urgent Business
13. Confidential Business

Next meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, at 6pm.

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9. OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 STRATEGIC AND STATUTORY PLANNING

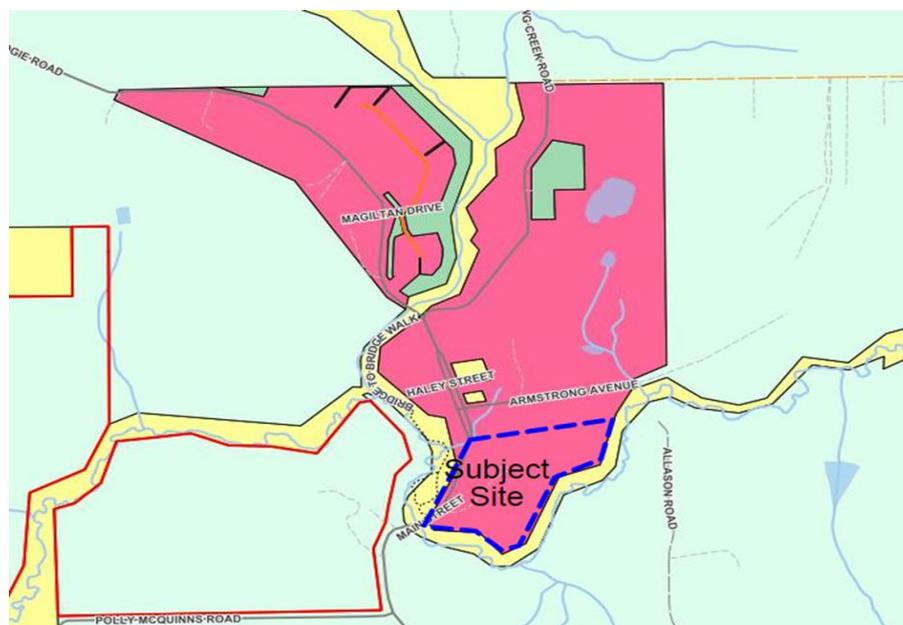
9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2022-049: Three Lot Subdivision and Associated Works (including construction of crossovers and vegetation removal under the Erosion Management Overlay) ~ Main Street, Strathbogie VIC 3666

Author: Town Planner

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council has received notice from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) that the Applicant has lodged an application under Section 79 Failure of the Responsible Authority to grant the permit within the prescribed time of 60 statutory days (known as a failure to determine appeal) of the Planning & Environment Act 1987.
- Even though a failure to determine appeal has been lodged and VCAT is now the decision maker, Council must still form a view on the merits of the application.
- The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information pertaining to Planning Application P2020-049 to enable Council to form a position on the application to provide to VCAT.
- The proposal is for a three-lot subdivision with associated works including the construction of crossovers and native vegetation removal. The crossovers and vegetation removal are triggered by the Erosion Management Overlay. There is no permit trigger for the native vegetation removal under Clause 52.17 as there is an exemption that allows for the creation of access to a lot and therefore no offset is required.
- The application was advertised and one objection has been received.
- The proposal is weighted in favour of support when assessed against the planning scheme.



9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2022-049: Three Lot Subdivision and Associated Works (including construction of crossovers and vegetation removal under the Erosion Management Overlay) ~ Main Street, Strathbogie VIC 3666 (cont.)

MOTION (cont.)

General Amenity:

2. *The subdivision must be managed so that the amenity of the area or locality, in the opinion of the Responsible Authority, is not detrimentally affected, through the:*
- *transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land;*
 - *appearance of any building, works or materials;*
 - *emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit or oil;*
 - *presence of vermin; and*
 - *others as appropriate.*

Public Open Space Contribution:

3. *Before the statement of compliance is issued under the Subdivision Act 1988, the owner must pay to the responsible authority a sum, or land set aside, or a combination, equivalent to five per cent of the site value of all the land in the subdivision.*

The owners must advise Council, in writing, to undertake the property valuation and must pay the Council's reasonable costs and expenses to provide such a valuation for payment in lieu of the public open space contribution.

Telecommunications:

4. *The owner of the land must enter into an agreement with:*
- *a telecommunications network or service provider for the provision of telecommunication services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and*
 - *a suitably qualified person for the provision of fibre ready telecommunication facilities to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.*
5. *Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance for any stage of the subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988, the owner of the land must provide written confirmation from:*
- *a telecommunications network or service provider that all lots are connected to or are ready for connection to telecommunications services in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and*

9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2022-049: Three Lot Subdivision and Associated Works (including construction of crossovers and vegetation removal under the Erosion Management Overlay) ~ Main Street, Strathbogie VIC 3666 (cont.)

MOTION (cont.)

- *a suitably qualified person that fibre ready telecommunication facilities have been provided in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.*

Environmental Health:

6. *Prior to the issue of the statement of compliance, the owner must enter into an agreement with the Responsible Authority, pursuant to Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. This agreement must be registered on the title to the land pursuant to Section 181 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The owner must pay the costs of the preparation, execution and registration of the Section 173 Agreement. The agreement must provide for the following:*

- *Prior to the commencement of works for a single dwelling on each allotment the owner must lodge with the Council an Application for a Permit to Install an On-site Wastewater Management System. The application shall be in accordance with the Environment Protection Regulations 2021, the EPA Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management, Publication 891.4, July 2016 and the Land Capability Assessment (LCA) prepared by A.C. Geotechnical, Andrew Craig, Report No. 22076, dated 26/03/2022.*
- *As indicated in the current Section 173 agreement, all wastewater from any dwelling must be treated to a standard of at least 20mg/L BOD and 30mg/L suspended solids using a package treatment plant or equivalent. The system must be installed, operated and maintained in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management, Publication 891.4, July 2016 and must have a Certificate of Conformity.*
- *The wastewater disposal land application area for each allotment must be located in accordance with the requirements of Table 5 of the EPA Code of Practice– Onsite Wastewater Management, Publication 891.4, July 2016 and specifically as recommended in the LCA set back a minimum of 100m from the Seven Creeks.*

9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2022-049: Three Lot Subdivision and Associated Works (including construction of crossovers and vegetation removal under the Erosion Management Overlay) ~ Main Street, Strathbogie VIC 3666 (cont.)

MOTION (cont.)

Engineering:

7. ***Prior to the issue of statement of compliance for the subdivision the Applicant/ Owner must obtain a vehicle crossing permit from the responsible authority for each lot and construct the vehicle crossing in accordance with the requirements. The vehicular crossing shall have satisfactory clearance to any side-entry pit, power or Telecommunications pole, manhole cover or marker, or street tree. Any relocation, alteration or replacement required shall be in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Authority and shall be at the applicant's expense. Final location of vehicle crossing must be approved by Responsible Authority via vehicle crossing permit.***
8. ***All stormwater and surface water discharging from the site, buildings and works must be conveyed to the legal point of discharge drains to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority/Goulburn Murray Water. No effluent or polluted water of any type may be allowed to enter the stormwater drainage system.***
9. ***Appropriate steps must be taken to retain all silt and sediment on site during the construction phase to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, in accordance with the sediment control principles outlined in Construction Techniques for Sediment Pollution Control (EPA, 1991) and to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.***
10. ***Any damage to the Responsible Authority's assets (i.e. sealed roads, kerb & channel, trees, nature strip etc), and boundary fences, must be repaired at the cost of the applicant all to the satisfaction of Responsible Authority.***

AusNet Electricity Services:

11. ***The applicant must –***

- ***Enter into an agreement with AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd for supply of electricity to each lot on the endorsed plan.***
- ***Enter into an agreement with AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd for the rearrangement of the existing electricity supply system.***
- ***Enter into an agreement with AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd for rearrangement of the points of supply to any existing installations affected by any private electric power line which would cross a boundary created by the subdivision, or by such means as may be agreed by AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd.***

9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2022-049: Three Lot Subdivision and Associated Works (including construction of crossovers and vegetation removal under the Erosion Management Overlay) ~ Main Street, Strathbogie VIC 3666 (cont.)

MOTION (cont.)

- *Provide easements satisfactory to AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd for the purpose of "Power Line" in the favour of "AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd" pursuant to Section 88 of the Electricity Industry Act 2000, where easements have not been otherwise provided, for all existing AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd electric power lines and for any new power lines required to service the lots on the endorsed plan and/or abutting land.*
- *Obtain for the use of AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd any other easement required to service the lots.*
- *Adjust the position of any existing AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd easement to accord with the position of the electricity line(s) as determined by survey.*
- *Provide to AusNet Electricity Services Pty Ltd a copy of the plan of subdivision submitted for certification that shows any amendments that have been required.*

Goulburn Valley Water:

12. The following is required -

- a) *Payment of new customer contribution charges for water supply to the development, such amount being determined by the Corporation at the time of payment;*
- b) *Provision of one water tapping per each lot at the developer's expense, in accordance with standards of construction adopted by and to the satisfaction of the Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation;*
- c) *Provision of easements over existing water mains located within private property as per existing title.*
- d) *The plan of subdivision lodged for certification is to be referred to the Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation pursuant to Section 8(1) of the Subdivision Act, 1988. The plan of subdivision will also require a notation stating "due to the lack of water pressure, all lots on this plan will require Water By Agreements with Goulburn Valley Water".*

Goulburn Murray Water:

13. The Plan of Subdivision submitted for Certification must show wastewater disposal exclusion zones on newly created lots at least 100m from Seven Creeks and any other waterways, 40m from any drainage lines, 60m from any dams and 20m from any bores.

14. Prior to the Statement of Compliance being issued, the owner must enter into an agreement with the Responsible Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water under Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act requiring that:

- a) *If a community effluent disposal system or reticulated sewerage system becomes available, each lot in the subdivision must be connected to the system and all on-site treatment and disposal systems must be decommissioned.*

9.1.1 Planning Permit Application No. P2022-049: Three Lot Subdivision and Associated Works (including construction of crossovers and vegetation removal under the Erosion Management Overlay) ~ Main Street, Strathbogie VIC 3666 (cont.)

MOTION (cont.)

- b) The owner shall meet the cost of the registration of the agreement on the title of the land.*
- c) This agreement is cancelled if (a) above is satisfied.*

15. The owner must provide evidence of registration of the 173 Agreement to Goulburn-Murray Water within three months of this occurring.

Permit Expiry:

16. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:

- the subdivision is not Certified within two (2) years of the date of this permit;*
- the subdivision is not completed within five (5) years of the date of Certification under the Subdivision Act 1988.*

The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing:

- before the permit expires; or*
- within six months afterwards*

Planning Notes:

- This Permit does not authorise the construction of a new access way/crossover without application for a Works Within A Road Reserve Permit.*

Goulburn Valley Water

- Please note due to the lack of water supply pressure Water by Agreements will be required for each lot.*

172-21/22 **CARRIED**

9.1.2 Planning Permit Applications Referral to Council Policy for Adoption

Author: Manager Planning and Investment

Responsible Director: Acting Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council Officers have a statutory obligation to decide/make recommendations on planning permit applications in a timely manner. The statutory timeframe for approval of a standard planning permit application is 60 days. A key performance indicator of the Strathbogie Shire Council 2021-2025 Council Plan is to decide on 80% of standard planning permit applications within the 60-day timeframe.

The recently conducted Community Satisfaction Survey highlighted a source of frustration for ratepayers is the time it takes to obtain approval for a planning permit application. This was also reflected in feedback obtained from community members at the recent 'Talk to a Planner' forums.

Currently a planning permit application that receives one (1) or more objections or that is recommended for refusal needs to be referred to a Council meeting for a decision. Most planning permit applications that come to a Council Meeting for a decision take longer than the 60-day statutory timeframe. This increases overall approval times and leads to community frustrations.

Often applications presented to Council receive only a small number of objections and do not have any significant strategic implications or impact on the broader community. Reducing the number of applications being presented to Council for determination, particularly those with a small number of objections, will speed up overall approval times and free up more time for officers to process other applications in a timely manner.

It is recommended that a Delegations Policy, for Planning Permit Applications and Referral to Council be adopted that provides clarity on which planning permit applications need to come to Council for a decision. The policy will focus on ensuring applications that are strategic in nature, controversial or of community interest are decided on by Council, while simple applications with a small number of objections are decided on under delegation without undue delay.

***MOVED: COUNCILLOR DICKINSON
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN***

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the Planning Permit Applications – Referral to Council Policy; and***
- 2. Note that any planning applications with less than five (5) objections can be called in by a Councillor for this matter to be considered and determined at a formal Council meeting.***

173-21/22 **CARRIED**

9.1.3 Planning Applications Received and Planning Applications Determined - 1 to 31 August 2022

Author: Manager Planning & Investment

Responsible Director: Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides listings of all Planning Applications Received (Attachment 1) and Planning Applications Determined (Attachment 2) for the period of 1 to 31 August 2022. The latest available Planning Permit Activity Performance Figures are also attached (Attachment 3). The contents of this report are provided for information purposes only.

It is noted that there were 23 new planning permit applications received and 27 planning permit applications decided upon during the reporting period.

***MOVED: COUNCILLOR DICKINSON
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE***

That Council:

- 1. Note that there were 23 new planning permit applications received, and 27 planning permit applications decided on during the period of 1 to 31 August 2022; and***
- 2. Note the report.***

174-21/22 CARRIED

9.2 **COMMUNITY**

9.2.1 **Community Action Group Funding 2022/23**

6.37 pm: Councillor Raeburn left the meeting due to declaring a material conflict of interest

Author: Community Development Officer

Responsible Director: Acting Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Funding allocation for Strathbogie Shire Council's eight (8) Community Action Groups opened on 1 July 2022 and closed on 1 August 2022.

The purpose of the Community Action Group Funding is to provide an opportunity for Community Action Groups to undertake projects that deliver on the objectives outlined in their Community Plans, encourage community participation, and align with the focus areas of Council.

The total budget allocation for the 2022/2023 Community Action Group Funding is \$81,000. Four of the eight Community Action Groups requested funding for a total of \$38,550, supporting a total of 10 projects to be delivered through this allocation.

Council Officers are requesting that the funding program remains open for the groups who did not apply for funding, until the funds are exhausted, enabling Council Officers to work with Community Action Groups to identify and submit projects that meet the funding guidelines for consideration of Council.

This will also support the Community Action Groups who may not currently have a Community Plan and those that may be transitioning to new models or governance structures.

Council Officers are also requesting a review of the Community Grants and Community Action Group Funding programs, due to the poor uptake across both funding programs and the nature of projects that are being funded.

In addition, Council Officers also recommend a review of the Community Action Group Model to enable continuous improvement and innovation within the community development approach of Council.

MOVED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR ANDREWS

That Council:

- Award funding to four action groups for ten (10) projects for the total sum of \$38,550 as per the below:***

<i><u>Action Group; Project</u></i>	<i><u>Proposed funding</u></i>
<i>Graytown Action Group; Maintenance/Upgrades Community Hub</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Avenel Active Community; Hub-External Weatherboard Repair</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>

9.2.1 Community Action Group Funding 2022/23 (cont.)*RECOMMENDATION (cont.)*

<i>Avenel Active; Community Portable All-Abilities Access Ramp</i>	<i>\$1,750</i>
<i>Avenel Active; 'Get Me to the Shops' Community Transport</i>	<i>\$2,500</i>
<i>Violet Town Action Group; Village Voice production contribution</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Violet Town Action Group; Violet Town & district website upgrade</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Euroa Comm. Action Group; Bush Food Trail at Yiiro</i>	<i>\$1,500</i>
<i>Euroa Comm. Action Group; Seating at Yiiro</i>	<i>\$4,800</i>
<i>Euroa Comm. Action Group; Taungurung Artwork at Yiiro</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Euroa Comm. Action Group; Indigenous Land Practice Workshop</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>

- 2. Authorise Council Officers to reopen the funding program on 1 October 2022 for Community Action Groups who did not apply, and remain open until funds are exhausted, enabling Council Officers to work with these Community Action Groups to identify and submit projects that meet the funding guidelines for consideration of Council;***
- 3. Authorise Council Officers to undertake a comprehensive review of the Community Action Group Model and present a report back to Council at a future Council meeting; and***
- 4. Authorise Council Officers to undertake a review of Council's existing Community Grants and Community Action Group Funding guidelines and present a report to Council at a future Council Meeting.***

175-21/22 **CARRIED**

6.44 pm: Councillor Raeburn returned to the meeting after the vote had been conducted

9.2.2 Public Art Policy for Adoption

Author: Manager Culture and Community

Responsible Director: Acting Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Public art can form an integral part of the public domain enhancing people's experiences of, and encouraging greater interaction with, public spaces. Public art is the unique association of how it is made, where it is, and what it means.

The Strathbogie Shire Council Arts and Culture Strategy and Action Plan highlights Council and the Community's commitment and desire for public art.

In response to this, Council Officers drafted a Public Art Policy. At the Council Meeting held on June 21, 2022, Council endorsed the release of the Draft Public Art Policy for community consultation.

Consultation is now complete and an engagement report detailing submissions is attached to this report. A total of four submissions were received and some minor amendments to the policy have been made as a result of feedback received.

This report presents the draft Public Art policy for Council's consideration and adoption.

MOVED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE

SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY

That Council:

- 1. Note the findings of the Draft Public Art Policy Engagement Report; and***
- 2. Adopt the Public Art Policy.***

176-21/22 ***CARRIED***

9.2.3 Euroa Secondary College – Scholarship Request for 2022, 2023 and 2024

Author: Manager Community and Culture

Responsible Director: Acting Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received a request from Euroa Secondary School for funds to support a scholarship for three years, 2022, 2023 & 2024.

The Strathbogie Shire Council Scholarship has been awarded to two current Euroa Secondary College Year 7 students, in the form of a \$250 Scholarship for each. The scholarships are given to students who are residents of the Strathbogie Shire and meet criteria based on academic results, participation in extracurricular activities and interest in community involvement. The scholarship is used to assist with the purchase of books and materials for year 8.

A representative from the Strathbogie Shire would be invited to present these awards and address the School Community, as per previous years. Council supported this scholarship from 2019-2021 through a previous agreement of the same nature.

Council has no approved funds for this request in the 2022/23 budget and the request does not meet the eligibility criteria for Council's Sponsorship program.

This report recommends Council decline the request from Euroa Secondary School for \$500 per year to fund two Strathbogie Shire Scholarships of \$250, for three years 2022, 2023 and 2024, notifying the school in writing of this decision.

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN**

That Council:

- 1. Note the request from the Euroa Secondary School for \$500 per year to fund two Strathbogie Shire Scholarships of \$250, for three years 2022, 2023 and 2024; and***
- 2. Decline the request from Euroa Secondary School for \$500 per year to fund two Strathbogie Shire Scholarships of \$250, for three years 2022, 2023 and 2024 and authorise officers to notify the school in writing of this decision.***
- 3. Note that work with the Euroa Secondary College, through Council's Youth Development Officer, will continue to identify ways to collaboratively strengthen Council's youth service provision and activities delivered through the school for the benefit of young people across Strathbogie Shire.***

177-21/22 **CARRIED**

9.2.4 Christmas Decorations Grant 2022

Author: Community Development Officer

Responsible Director: Acting Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strathbogie Shire Council's Christmas Decorations Grant opened on 1 July 2022 and closed on 1 August 2022 for submissions. The objective of the Christmas Decorations funding program is to provide towns in Strathbogie Shire the opportunity to decorate their main street and/or public space to celebrate the Christmas season.

The total budget allocation for the 2022 Christmas Decorations Grant Program is \$30,000. Grants are available for up to \$5,000 per township, multiple submissions may be considered if within the \$5,000 township allocation and the submissions are complimentary, however groups in the same town are encouraged to work with one another.

Six (6) submissions were received for a total amount of \$26,300.

Council Officers followed up with each applicant requesting additional information, quotes, and risk assessments. Applicants were provided an additional week to resubmit the required documentation for consideration.

Four (4) submissions from the towns of Avenel, Euroa, Longwood, and Nagambie are all recommended for approval.

Two (2) submissions were not recommended for funding; the Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce who could not provide a quote or identify a service provider to undertake the works, and Violet Town Community House due to significant safety concerns. No submissions were received from the township of Strathbogie.

***MOVED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY***

Amendment:

That Council:

- Approve funding from the Christmas Decorations Grant Program budget to four projects for the total sum of \$16,300 as per the below;***

<u>Project/Applicant</u>	<u>Funding requested</u>
<i>Lighting up Jubilee Park / Jubilee Park CoM</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Festive Banners / Euroa Lions Club</i>	<i>\$1,300</i>
<i>Light Trail / Longwood Community Centre CoM</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<i>Wreaths and Street Decorations / Go Nagambie</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>

9.2.4 Christmas Decorations Grant 2022 (cont.)

MOTION (cont.)

2. ***Authorise Council Officers to work with the unsuccessful applicants from Violet Town (up to \$5000) and Euroa (up to \$3700) to support these communities to refine their applications in line with the funding guidelines and resubmit applications to Council for consideration.***
3. ***Authorise Council Officers to include the Christmas Decoration Grant Program as a part of the broader review of Community Action Group Funding and Community Grant Funding.***

178-21/22 **CARRIED**

9.2.5 Municipal Building Control Intervention Policy

Author: Manager Community Safety

Responsible Director: Acting Director Community and Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Municipal Building Control Intervention Policy sets out how and when Council and its Municipal Building Surveyor will respond to building control matters where:

- a private building surveyor has been appointed and is responsible to carry out functions under the Act, and
- when matters will be referred to the Victorian Building Authority and/or Building Practitioners Board for their administration and enforcement of the Building Act 1993.

Council adopted its Municipal Building Control Intervention Policy in February 2021. The Policy is required to be reviewed on an annual basis. This report provides a summary of the required annual review of this Policy.

A review of the policy has identified no required changes to be made to this policy.

***MOVED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR ANDREWS***

That Council:

- 1. Notes the annual review of the Municipal Building Control Intervention Policy; and***
- 2. Notes there have been no changes made to this policy.***

179-21/22 CARRIED

9.3 INFRASTRUCTURE

9.3.1 Contract Variation CN19/20-44: Mullers Road - Road Reconstruction ~ Stage 2

Author: Manager Projects Delivery, Senior Project Officer

Responsible Director: Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Re-construction of Mullers Stage 2 road has been integrated into Strathbogie Shire Capital Work Program for the Financial Year 2022-23, being the second segment of Mullers Road scheduled for reconstruction having completed the reconstruction of a 4km segment of the road under Stage-1 contract.

At the February 2021 Council Meeting, Council approved to award Contract No 19/20-44 for Mullers Road Reconstruction Stage-2 to Bitu-mill (Civil) Pty Ltd, after emerging as the preferred tenderer following a competitive tender process. The lumpsum contract was awarded for a total sum of \$505,987.63 plus GST.

Accordingly, the contract was awarded and Contract Agreement fully executed on 26/07/2021. However, construction work has yet to commence due to delays arising from Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) and Planning Permits to remove the impacted trees. Although CHMP approval has now been obtained since July 2022, the permit application presented to the 14 December 2021 Council meeting to grant the removal of the impacted trees was deferred. Consequently, Council undertook a redesign of the work within the constraints of retaining the trees while striving to meet the objectives of the road upgrade works.

Therefore, time delay of more than 13 months due to issues enumerated above, coupled with design changes which includes new drainage components, additional fill materials and specification of higher grade of safety guard rails, have collectively resulted in a significant cost increase. Should this variation be approved, the new contract value would be \$689,285.74 plus GST, an increase of \$183,298.11 or 36.23% of the initial value.

***MOVED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR ANDREWS***

That Council approve the variation of \$183,298.11 to Contract No 19/20-44 Mullers Road – Road Reconstruction Stage-2, from the original amount of \$505,987.63 + GST to \$689,285.74 + GST to carry out the required works.

180-21/22 ***CARRIED***

9.3.2 Contract Variation CN21/22-13: Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park

Author: Manager Projects Delivery, Senior Project Officer

Responsible Director: Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nagambie Water Splash Park currently being developed at Buckley Park location in Nagambie is one of the key projects Council has pledged to deliver this financial year. It is anticipated that, the park when completed and open for public use, would further promote healthy living of Nagambie residents by means of outdoor recreation and boost tourism in the region.

At the October 2021 Council Meeting, Council approved to award Contract No 21/22-13 Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park to Exco Construct Pty Ltd, after emerging as the preferred tenderer following a competitive tender process. The lumpsum contract was awarded for a total sum of \$849,410.00 plus GST.

Accordingly, the contract was awarded, and Contract Agreement fully executed on 01/03/2022. Construction has progressed over 75% with an expected completion date of 30 November 2022.

However, work scope has been expanded post contract award to ensure that the facility is fit for purpose at completion, thereby resulting in cost variation to contract. Should this variation be approved, the new contract value would be \$956,976.24 plus GST, an increase of \$107,566.24 or 12.7% of the initial contract value.

***MOVED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR DICKINSON***

That Council approve the variation to Contract No 21/22-13 – Design and Construction of Nagambie Water Splash Park, from the original amount of \$849,410.00 + GST to \$956,976.24 + GST to carry out additional works required to complete the project.

181-21/22 ***CARRIED***

9.3.3 Contracts and Purchases Awarded Under Delegation (as approved in Council's 2021/22 capital works budget)

Author: Manager Projects

Responsible Directors: Director Community & Planning / Director Sustainable Infrastructure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform Council and the community of the status of request for tenders that have been awarded under delegation and those that have been publicly advertised but are yet to be awarded as of 1 September 2022. This report specifically relates to works that form part of Council's 2021/22 capital works budget.

***MOVED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN***

That Council note the:

- 1. Contracts awarded under delegated authority by the Chief Executive Officer;***
- 2. Contracts and purchases awarded under delegated authority by Director, and***
- 3. Contracts and purchases awarded under delegated authority by Manager.***

182-21/22 CARRIED

9.4 CORPORATE

9.4.1 Instruments of Appointment and Authorisation Updates

- S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987)

- S11B Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Environment Protection Act 2017)

Author: Director Community & Planning

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following recent appointments to vacant positions and updates to position titles several changes are required to be made to the following instruments:

- S11A Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*);
- S11B Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Environment Protection Act 2017*).

The amended authorisations, once approved by Council, will remain in force until the next Delegations and Authorisations update is prepared or following staff position title change/s, and / or staff changes.

MOVED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN

SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY

That in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 224 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) and the other legislation referred to in the attached instruments of appointment and authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987 and instrument of appointment and authorization (Environment Protection Act 2017) (the instruments), Strathbogie Shire Council (Council) resolves that –

- 1. There be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties of the members of Council staff referred to in the instruments be appointed and authorised as set out in the instruments;***
- 2. The instruments be signed and sealed by Council under the Strathbogie Shire Council Local Law No.1 – Use of the Common Seal;***
- 3. The instruments come into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instruments and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it;***
- 4. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to members of staff for the purpose of planning and environment and environmental protection are revoked; and***
- 5. The duties and functions set out in the instruments must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.***

183-21/22

CARRIED

9.4.2 Memorandum of Understanding – Governance Structures to Deliver the Rural Councils Transformation Project Grant

Author: Director People & Governance

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its November 2021 meeting Council resolved to approve participation, with a grouping of councils, in an application for funding under the Victorian Government's Rural Council Transformation Program (RCTP) entitled 'Lifting Service Performance Through Shared Technology and Collaboration'.

The funding application outlined a collaboration between Mansfield Shire Council (as the lead Council), the Rural City of Benalla, Murrindindi Shire Council and Strathbogie Shire Council to procure new information technology systems and re-engineer internal processes to maximise service delivery efficiency.

On 18 May 2022 Minister Shaun Leane wrote to Cr James Tehan, Mayor Mansfield Shire Council, informing councils that the funding application had been successful.

The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions is providing the four councils with a combined \$1 million over a two-year period. This funding is augmented by equal contributions from each council totalling \$1.4458 million over the same timeframe. It is noted that all four Councils have committed to a three-year project, with Year 3 being self funded, to procure new systems relating to:

- Records management
- Finance systems (including customer, property and rating functions)
- Council agenda management
- Planning, building and regulatory services.

Following discussions with councils that participated in Round 1 of the RCTP funding stream, it was decided that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was required to define governance structures to meet the terms of the funding agreement, including reporting and acquittal of funds to the Department. The MOU is also designed to provide a clear decision making and reporting structure to deliver this project.

The MOU has now been drafted. The purpose of this report is to provide Council and the community with an update on the granting of the RCTP funding, along with the work that has been undertaken to ensure the project's success through the noting of the MOU.

MOVED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY

That Council note the:

1. ***Receipt of a grant of \$1 million for the Rural Council Transformation Program (RCTP) entitled 'Lifting Service Performance Through Shared Technology and Collaboration' project from the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Region; and***

9.4.2 Memorandum of Understanding – Governance Structures to Deliver the Rural Councils Transformation Project Grant (cont.)

RECOMMENDATION (cont.)

2. ***Draft Memorandum of Understanding between Mansfield Shire Council (the lead Council), Rural City of Benalla, Murrindindi Shire Council and Strathbogie Shire Council, to be signed by the respective Chief Executive Officers of the Councils.***

184-21/22 **CARRIED**

9.4.3 Adoption of 2021/22 Annual Financial Report

Author : Chief Financial Officer

Responsible Director: People & Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) states it is essential there is a legislative framework that provides for councils to be accountable to their local communities in the performance of functions and the exercise of powers and the use of resources.

Accordingly, it is a statutory requirement under the Act that councils prepare and report on medium and short term financial plans to discharge their duties of accountability and transparency to their communities.

The Act specifically requires that Council pass a resolution giving its approval in principle to the Annual Financial Report prior to formally submitting to the Auditor-General Victoria. Council is required to authorise two Councillors to approve this Report.

The approved and audited Report then forms part of the Council's Annual Report, as required by Sections 98 and 99 of the Act.

The Audit and Risk Committee considered the Report at its meeting on Friday 16 September 2022, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020. The Committee requested that the report be amended to ensure commentary around the Violet Town Landfill project was consistent throughout the document. This amendment has been made and is included in the Attachment to this report.

However, due to a lack of quorum due the Committee was unable to move and second a recommendation to Council.

Attempts are being made at the time of writing this report to organise an extraordinary Audit and Risk Committee meeting on Monday 19 September 2022 to enable a recommendation to be made to Council prior to the consideration of this item by Council.

However, if this meeting cannot occur, this matter will need to be deferred, noting that:

- section 99(1) of the Act states that Council must, as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year prepare the financial statements; and
- section 100 of the Act requires Council to hold a meeting to consider its Annual Report within 4 months of the end of the financial year (that is October).

An extraordinary Audit and Risk Committee meeting and an extra ordinary Council meeting would be required to be held in late September in order to meet these legislated requirements.

The purpose of this report is to therefore note the Audit and Risk Committee's recommendations, approve the financial report in principle and authorise two Councillors to sign the Annual Financial Report once audited and finalised.

9.4.3 Adoption of 2021/22 Annual Financial Report (cont.)

MOVED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY

That Council:

- 1. *Approve in principle the 2021/22 Annual Financial Report;***
- 2. *Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make minor amendments to the 2021/22 Annual Financial Report, if required following the conclusion of the external audit by the Victorian Auditor General's Office, and brief Council if amendments are made;***
- 3. *Authorise Councillors Binks and Murray to sign the 2021/22 Annual Financial Report once finalised; and***
- 4. *Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to:***
 - a) *certify the 2021/22 Annual Financial Report; and***
 - b) *include the Auditor's Certified Report in the Annual Report to be considered by Council at its October 2022 meeting.***

185-21/22 CARRIED

9.4.4 Adoption of Draft Performance Statement 2021/22 and Draft Governance and Management Checklist 2021/22

Author: Chief Financial Officer

Responsible Director: Director People & Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) is a mandatory system of performance reporting that must be completed by all Victorian councils. It ensures that councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the local government sector.

The Framework uses a range of standardised indicators and metrics to ensure councils are measuring and reporting on their performance in a consistent way to promote transparency and accountability in the local government sector.

The Draft Performance Statement shows consistent performance with previous years, with some metrics such as staff turnover and participation in the library service, being impacted by Covid 19 pandemic lockdowns, loss of staff through State government mandatory vaccination requirements and significant labour market shifts.

The financial metrics identify improvement in performance around loans and borrowings compared to rates and a reduction in the metric of rates compared to property values due to significant increases in capital improved value of all sectors of the property market.

The Draft Governance Management Checklists focuses on a range of policies, plans and other documents, with its aim to identify if a sound good governance framework is in place for council. Strathbogie has performed well against this Checklist, with a 'Yes' answer against all of the listed items of the good governance framework.

The Audit and Risk Committee considered the Performance Report and Checklist at its meeting on Friday 16 September 2022, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

The Committee requested an amendment to be made to provide consistent commentary around the costs and adjustments relating to the Violet Town Landfill to align with the Annual Finance Report. This amendment has been made in the Performance Statement attached to this report.

However, due to a lack of quorum due the Committee was unable to move and second a recommendation to Council on the in principle support for these documents.

Attempts are being made at the time of writing this report to organise an extraordinary Audit and Risk Committee meeting on Monday 19 September 2022 to enable a recommendation to be made to Council prior to the consideration of this item by Council.

9.4.4 Adoption of Draft Performance Statement 2021/22 and Draft Governance and Management Checklist 2021/22 (cont.)

However, if this meeting cannot occur, this matter will need to be deferred, noting that section 100 of the Act requires Council to hold a meeting to consider its Annual Report within 4 months of the end of the financial year (that is October).

An extraordinary Audit and Risk Committee meeting and an extra ordinary Council meeting would be required to be held in late September in order to meet these legislated requirements.

The Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) requires that Council pass a resolution giving its approval to the Performance Statement 2021/22 and Governance and Management Checklist prior to formal submission to the Auditor-General Victoria. The Act also requires that Council must authorise two Councillors to certify the Performance Statement and Governance and Management Checklist.

Once adopted, the Performance Statement and Governance and Management Checklist will form part of Council's 2021-22 Annual Report which will be considered by Council at its October meeting.

MOVED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY

That:

1. ***In accordance with Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2020, Council adopt, in principle, the –***
 - a) ***Performance Statement 2021/22***
 - b) ***Governance and Management Checklist 2021/22;***
2. ***In accordance with Section 99 (3) of the Local Government Act 2020, Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer, Mayor Binks and Councillor Murray to certify the 2021/22 Performance Statement and Governance and Management Checklist once reviewed by the Victorian Auditor General's Office, subject to any minor corrections required by the Victorian Auditor General; and***
3. ***Once finalised, the Performance Statement and Governance and Management Checklist be included in Council's 2021-22 Annual Report.***

186-21/22 **CARRIED**

9.5 GOVERNANCE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

9.5.1 Monthly Performance Report

The September 2022 Monthly Performance Report includes reports as follows:-

- Building Department – August 2022 Statistics
- Planning Department – Planning Application Approvals – Development Cost (Capital Improved Value) – August 2022
- Customer Enquiry Analysis Report – Report for August 2022
- Waste Management Reporting ~ Year to Date – August 2022
- Transfer Station Data – August 2022
- Actioning of Council Reports Resolutions – Council Meeting Tuesday August 16, 2022
- Outstanding Actions of Council Resolutions to August 31, 2022
- Review of Council Policies and Adoption of new Policies – August/September 2022
- Records of Informal Council Briefings / Meetings – 1 to 31 August 2022

By reporting on a monthly basis, Council can effectively manage any risks that may arise. The Business Management System will also incorporate Council's corporate goals and objectives.

MOVED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN

That the report be noted.

187-21/22 **CARRIED**

9.6 EXECUTIVE

9.6.1 Establishing a Community Panel

Author: Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

Responsible Director: Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Action 1.1.2 of the 2021/25 Council Plan is to complete and implement a review of the Advisory Committee structure to adopt a best practice approach.

Council's aim is to find a way to have more meaningful conversations with our community in a way that improves the experience for everyone.

Feedback through social media, petitioning and reactive public opinion is often more negative, rather than constructive.

This does not create meaningful conversations. More importantly, it can put people off participating because they feel they need to be vocal and loud to be heard.

Creating a new approach to community engagement can generate trust, build contribution, and create better outcomes for Council and our community.

This report outlines a new option to ensure best practice engagement into the future.

It recommends the establishment of a Community Panel, often known as a Standing Panel, which is a group of people brought together to collaborate with Council on many issues over a long period of time.

The panel can provide advice on a range of different topics, issues, projects and strategies.

For example – a township-based problem can be solved by bringing in the panel participants who live in that area and asking them to provide local knowledge and advice.

On a shire-based project we could bring the entire panel together to deliberate, share information and gather input.

Our panellists would then act as an advocate to participation in the community.

Not simply encouraging others to participate but generating understanding and trust in the process and Council's decision making.

It is important to note, the establishment of Community Panel is in addition to broad community engagement. We will continue to provide opportunities for our entire community to share their thoughts, feedback and advice.

The panel will be trialled for up to two years.

This report also notes the start of the community consultation to establish a new Community Engagement Strategy, to coincide with the conclusion of the 2019-2022 strategy.

9.6.1 Establishing a Community Panel (cont.)

MOVED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN

That Council:

1. ***Discontinues the operation of all Advisory Committees, noting legislated (Audit and Risk Committee) and cross-organisational committees (currently the Waterways Management Committee and Greening Euroa Committee) will continue to operate;***
2. ***Establishes a community panel that will be trialled for up to two years to provide a best practice approach to Council's community engagement program; and***
3. ***Notes the community panel is an additional engagement method and officers will continue to provide broad community engagement opportunities for the entire community to share thoughts, feedback and advice.***
4. ***Endorses the commencement of an engagement plan to seek input into the 2022/25 Community Engagement Strategy.***

188-21/22 **CARRIED**

Cr Hayes-Burke called for a divisionFor the Motion

Cr Raeburn
Cr Hayes-Burke
Cr Murray
Cr Andrews
Cr Binks

Against the Motion

Cr Dickinson

9.6.2 Councillor Training and Development Expense Request – Councillor Laura Binks

7.59 pm: The Mayor, Councillor Binks, vacated the Chair and left the meeting due to declaring a material conflict of interest

The Deputy Mayor assumed the role of Chair

Author: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As per the Council Expenses Policy, Councillors are entitled to claim training and development and conference attendance expenses of up to \$1,500 per financial year to participate and complete industry programs that may assist in their performance of duties and responsibilities as representatives for Local Government. Any request for training and conference expenses exceeding this annual allowance must be subject to a Council resolution under section 17.2 of the Council Expenses Policy.

The Mayor, Councillor Laura Binks expressed her desire to participate in the Australian Institute of Company Directors (online) Course organised through Regional Councils Victoria (RCV). RCV will provide each participating council a contribution of \$2,428 towards this course, representing a 35% discount. Councils will be required to pay the balance of \$4,571. The total course value is \$6,999 (+GST).

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE**

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the provision of an additional \$4,571 of training funding to Councillor Laura Binks for participation in the online Australian Institute of Company Directors Course;**
- 2. Note that Council funding of \$4,571 is contingent on Councillor Binks successfully passing all requirements of the course; and**
- 3. Receive a written report from Cr Binks upon the completion of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course, as required by section 17.2 of the Council Expenses Policy, identifying the key issues of relevance to the Shire and the community benefit gained by the completion of the course.**

198-21/22 **CARRIED**

8.06 pm: The Mayor, Councillor Binks, returned to the meeting after the vote had been conducted, and assumed the role of Chair

9.6.3 Community Engagement Policy

Author: Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community engagement provides opportunities for the community to be involved in planning and decision-making because understanding the needs, aspirations, concerns and ideas of the community creates better outcomes and better decisions.

Hearing from a range of perspectives leads to better decisions and encourages ownership and belonging from all sections of our community. Importantly, it ensures transparency, integrity and trust in Council processes.

The Local Government Act 2020 reformed community engagement on plans, policies and decision-making. The legislation required all Councils to develop and maintain a Community Engagement Policy by March 1, 2021.

Council adopted its Community Engagement Policy in February 2021; this report provides the annual review.

Council's Community Engagement Policy sets the rules about how we engage and who is responsible.

The Community Engagement Strategy 2019-22 sets out how we determine the tools and methods we use to engage, our engagement goals along with determining the level of impact.

Community engagement on a new Community Engagement Strategy – to coincide with the end of the current Strategy – will start in coming months.

The policy ensures that:

- Communication and engagement plans are developed to support proposed, new or existing projects, programs or initiatives within Council;
- All communication and engagement activities undertaken within Council are appropriately researched and planned by the Communications and Engagement Team to effectively target the right audience and achieve the desired outcome for Council and the community;
- Community engagement is a core process that underpins the Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan;
- Community needs and aspirations are considered in developing and implementing Council's strategic directions and priorities, and;
- Messages are consistent with the short term and long-term goals of Council across all communications.

9.6.3 Community Engagement Policy (cont.)

MOVED: COUNCILLOR HAYES-BURKE
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN

That Council:

- 1. *Endorses the annual review of the Community Engagement Policy; and***
- 2. *Notes there have been no changes made to the policy.***

190-21/22 **CARRIED**

9.6.4 Draft 2022 Victorian Government Election Advocacy Ask

Author: Policy Research and Councillor Support Officer

Responsible Director: Executive Manager Communications and Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The next State Government election will take place on Saturday 26th November 2022.

The next two months provide a significant opportunity for Strathbogie Shire Council to drive a pre-election advocacy campaign, which should consist of five priority projects based the advocacy action identified in the Council Plan 2021 – 25 and Strategic Advocacy Objectives (p.12 of the 2021-2025 Advocacy Strategy).

Council needs to leverage this opportunity to meet with each candidate running for the above-mentioned seats, and present Strathbogie Shire's *Election Advocacy Ask* document, with the aim to receive a pre-election commitment.

Based on Council Plan 2021-2025, the following five projects are prioritised in the 2022 Victorian Government Election Advocacy Ask:

1. Reliable power supply and renewable energy
2. 2026 Commonwealth Games: Lake Nagambie bid for inland coastal rowing
3. The Greening Euroa Project
4. Nature Based Play Space
5. Balmattum Hill Mountain Bike Track – Feasibility Study

Please refer to Attachment 1 of this report to read each advocacy project opportunity, benefit and ask.

MOVED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR ANDREWS

That Council endorse the '2022 Victorian Government Election Advocacy Ask' priorities as listed below:

- 1. Reliable power supply and renewable energy,***
- 2. 2026 Commonwealth Games: Lake Nagambie bid for inland coastal rowing,***
- 3. The Greening Euroa Project,***
- 4. Nature Based Playground (Euroa), and***
- 5. Balmattum Hill Mountain Bike Track – Feasibility Study (Euroa).***

191-21/22 **CARRIED**

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

11. NOTICES OF RESCISSION

Nil

12. URGENT BUSINESS

12.1 Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee – Appointment of Additional Councillor Member

12. URGENT BUSINESS

12.1 Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee – Appointment of Additional Councillor Member

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Strathbogie Shire Council has an Audit and Risk Committee (the Committee) which acts as an independent advisory board to Council.

The Committee plays a key role in assisting a local government to fulfil its governance and oversight responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, internal control structure, risk management systems, legislative compliance, ethical accountability and the internal and external audit functions.

The current membership of the Audit and Risk Committee comprises:

Independent Members:

- Mr Paul Ayton (Chair)
- Mr Mark Freudenstein
- Mr Alister Purbrick
- Mr Alistair Thompson

Councillor Members

- Cr Dave Andrews
- Cr Paul Murray

At its meeting on Friday 16 September 2022, the Audit and Risk Committee considered a range of matters including the Financial Statements and Performance Statements required in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

However, due to a lack of quorum, the Committee was unable to move and second recommendations to Council. This is because the Audit and Risk Committee Charter states that a quorum consists of a minimum of two (2) independent members and one (1) Councillor member.

To enable Council to meet its statutory obligations and timelines in relation to the preparation of financial and performance reports, along with the Annual Report, an extraordinary Audit and Risk Committee meeting was held on Monday 19 September 2022 to enable recommendations to be made to Council prior to the consideration of items 9.4.3 and 9.4.4 on this Council agenda.

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee has requested that officers take immediate action to minimise the risk of a failure to achieve a quorum into the future. As such, this recommendation seeks to appoint the Mayor, Cr Laura Binks to act as a substitute representative for any Councillor who as part of the Audit & Risk Committee is unable to attend, until the Annual Statutory Meeting is held in November 2022.

12.1 Strathbogie Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee – Appointment of Additional Councillor Member (cont.)

MOVED: COUNCILLOR MURRAY
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR RAEBURN

That Council appoint the Mayor, Councillor Laura Binks as a substitute member of the Audit and Risk Committee to act as a substitute representative for any Councillor who has been appointed to sit on the Audit & Risk Committee and is unable to attend, until the Annual Statutory Meeting is held in November 2022.

192-21/22 **CARRIED**

13. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the Strathbogie Shire Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, at 6pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.20 P.M.

Confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the Meeting

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Chair

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Date